



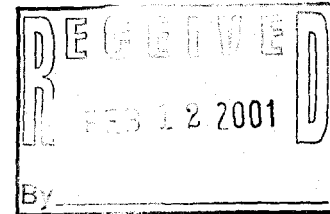
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ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING ITEM
U-6

2001 FEB 12 P 4:48 T-00000F-99-0641

Commissioner Bill Mundell
From Bill Taylor, KOSZ & ASSOC
RE: Area Code Change



As you know from your visits here, The Globe Miami area has been given the shaft when it comes to local phone service. Now I ask that history not be repeated.

Years ago when an all knowing Federal Judge assigned LATA's... He put Globe/Miami in the Tucson LATA. Logical because of Geography, but wrong for all other reasons. Our commerce has never flowed to Tucson, but instead to the Valley. For years the vast majority of our long distance calls were to the valley and for years we only had A.T. & T. as a carrier. The phrase, "your call is important to us" was good for a couple of bucks..

Now with the proposed change to lump Globe/Miami into the Tucson area code only sets us back years. Our commerce runs to the valley, our roads run to the valley. People live here and work in the Valley. The fact is.. Everything north of the Pinals, should remain 520 in Gila County. Hayden/Winkelman in the Southern tip of Gila County are Tucson oriented. They shop Tucson, but we go to the valley.

Our Globe/Miami economy has had enough hits from low copper prices, the loss of our HMOs, and... our taxes are killers. There is about 5% of our county in private hands and a big chunk of that belongs to the mines, and our state legislature gave them a reduction in taxes, and the rest of us have to make up the difference.

Please don't give us another set back for our economy.

I would not have even known about the potential change if I had not belatedly seen a store in the East Valley Tribune. There was a comment made regarding this change in Area Codes would "last 12 years". I have been activating cell phones for over 5 years. As the cost comes down, the use goes up. Somebody in your midst is not paying attention. It will only be a few years and you'll be adding another area code for Kingman to Yuma. It is very common for people to have 3 and 4 lines of service. If they have teenagers, two hard lines and then a cell phone for each kid.

With todays packaging of "Family Plans" in which the phones share time.. Two for the price of one.... Plus the cost of prepaid is coming down... Plus more people are wanting their Internet on a separate line because the spend so damn much time on it.

Give us a break... don't make our bad phone service worse.

If you have questions... Call me. 520 425 7186 Bill Taylor

7/1/01 11:11 P.M. This!!

Arizona Corporation Commission
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FEB 12 2001

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